President's Opening Speech.

President.—It gives me very great pleasure to extend to you all a hearty welcome on this occasion of our meeting for the second budget session of the Cochin Legislative Council. Let me express the hope that our deliberations in this important session will be characterised by the same cordial mutual understanding which was a striking feature of our meeting during the first budget session about this time last year. I say in all sincerity that it is my firm conviction that we have become better fitted to discharge our responsible duties by reason of the knowledge and learning gained during the year in regard to many and varied matters connected with the discussion of the annual budget. I have no doubt that, by a frank and full disclosure of the necessity for the numerous items of disbursements under the several demands, the progress in our work will be rendered smooth, our valuable time economised and our labours made less exacting. When we, the members of the Standing Finance Committee, recently met to examine the annual budget, we were, I am glad to say, able to get through our work in a shorter time than was anticipated, and this was rendered possible by the non-official members being placed in possession of the requisite materials for a proper appreciation of the necessity for the various items of expenditure. I acknowledge with satisfaction that the non-official members of the Standing Finance Committee made the best use of their opportunities, and evinced a very keen interest in the study of Cochin finance by asking for information on a variety of useful points. With a view to facilitate the consideration and examination of budget items in the Council, I have made arrangements with the official members charged with the motions for demands for grants in their respective departments that, while, moving for the demand, they should be able to furnish the non-official members with detailed information, wherever such information is found to be necessary, regarding the items of demand. Such a course will obviate the necessity of each of the members asking for information on this point, and on that point, a procedure which should be dispensed with, as far as possible. By such a method, all relevant facts required for a proper appreciation of the necessity for expenditure will be placed before the Council, and I am sure that my Heads of Departments will not be found wanting in the performance of this task.

Let me be permitted to express, both on behalf of yourselves and myself, our grateful thanks to Mr. Vernon, the Agent to the Governor-General, who has so readily responded to my invitation to be present on this occasion, and whose presence has added

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

dignity to the proceedings of the Council. I beg to convey our hearty thanks also to the Assistant Agent, Major Fraser Tytler, who was able to respond to my invitation, and whose presence on the occasion is much appreciated.

With these few observations, I declare the session open. The business of the session will now be proceeded with in the order set forth in the agenda.

Bills assented to by H. H. the Maharaja.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—Sir, I have the honour to announce to the House that a Bill to amend the Cattle Trespass Regulation passed by the Council at its meeting of Friday, the 26th of Vrischigam 1101, corresponding to the 11th of December 1925, has received the assent of His Highness the Maharaja of Cochin, on the 27th of Edavam 1101, corresponding to the 9th of June 1926.

Similarly, the Cochin Criminal Law Amendment Bill, passed on the same day, has received the assent of His Highness the Maharaja on the same aforesaid date.

Lapsing of Questions and Answers printed and circulated, but not disposed off.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—A point of order, Sir. May I know whether the questions and answers, printed and placed on the Council table, but not considered and disposed off by the Council in the ordinary course of business, may be taken as lapsed.

President.—I believe I have given a ruling on this point in the last meeting of the Council. Well, these questions and answers are placed on the table and are published, and these questions must be taken to have been answered; for, the one hour devoted for the consideration of questions is to enable members to put supplementary questions on the answers furnished; and if, within that hour, you are not able to finish the business, the questions and answers are over. That is my ruling.

The Secretary reads a question—question number so and so—; this is simply to enable the member who puts the question to put supplementary questions in respect of the answers given, so that, if we are not able to get through all the questions in the list, all the questions must be taken to have been answered. That is my ruling.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly